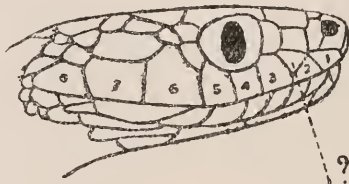


“ Occasional aberrant specimens may be seen with only 2 loreals or even with 4 or 5.” In a young specimen in my possession there are *two* loreals on the right side and only *one* on the left. Is not this very extraordinary ?

Again, in a specimen of *Dipsadomorphus trigonotus* the shields on the right side are normal, whilst on the left side there is a small wedge-shaped shield between the 2nd and 3rd supralabial. It touches the squarish loreal and also the supraocular. Is it another loreal ?



J. P. MULLAN.

BOMBAY, 11th August 1908.

No. XXVI.—NOTES ON A GRAVID FEMALE OF SIEBOLD'S
WATERSNAKE (*HYPsirrhina sieboldii*).

I have lately received from Mr. N. V. Reid a fine specimen of Siebold's watersnake, interesting especially in that it is a gravid female, containing 5 fœtus, and 7 nonfertile eggs.

It was found beneath a stack of wood about 20 yards from a lake on the 21st July this year at Champaran, Bengal (the extreme North-West District of Behar). The scale rows in the mother are 29 two-heads lengths behind the head, 29 in midbody and 22 two-heads lengths before the vent; the ventrals and subcaudals 152×47 . The lepidosis of the 3 young extracted from the membrane, all of which are females, is as follows respectively:—No. 1, scales 29—29—25, ventrals $148 + 47$; No. 2, scales 29—31—25, ventrals $147 + 46$; No. 3, scales 27—29—21, ventrals $143 + ?$, tail deformed.

The length of one fœtus is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and they all have the appearance of being ready to be born.

Members of the family Homolopsinæ are all reputed to be viviparous in habit, but the fact that oviparous and viviparous species are to be found in the same genus (*Tropidonotus*, *Lachesis*, etc.) should deter one from making too sweeping assertions with regard to the breeding habits of other genera, and more especially of families. I am not aware of any previous record showing that this species is viviparous.

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DARJEELING, 30th August 1908.